

**Applicant Name** Polson, City of  
**Project Name** Polson Water System Improvements

### **Project Abstract**

The City of Polson manages a complex water system which utilizes a system of groundwater wells and storage reservoirs to supply water to three primary pressure zones. The city has made recent improvements to the water system, including a 1 million-gallon concrete storage tank and two new wells constructed in 2001, on the west side of the Flathead River. Despite the recent improvements, population growth in the area and deteriorating infrastructure continues to impact the city's ability to provide adequate water quantity to satisfy demand. This situation is compounded by the fact that two of the existing water storage tanks, constructed in 1922, are in need of immediate replacement. These storage tanks exhibit severe deterioration, including spalling concrete, exposure of rebar, and the potential for complete failure. The tanks serve the lower pressure zone which includes most of the eastern downtown commercial area.

Water system modeling demonstrates that the lack of available storage during peak demand periods and restrictions in the distribution system piping are impacting the city's ability to provide sufficient water supply for fire protection in certain areas of the city. A substantial potential for property loss exists since Polson High School is in an area of low water availability. One area of town located near the highest storage reservoir has very low operating pressures and needs a booster station.

The proposed project is to replace the deteriorating storage tanks and preserve the ability to retain water resources for domestic and fire protection needs. Adequate storage will also allow the community to develop. With multiple pressure zones in the community, having adequate storage in each pressure zone allows the city to properly manage the water supply to meet required demand. The new booster station will limit the public health and safety hazard associated with inadequate water pressure. The new main and fire hydrant will help provide adequate water to fight fires at the high school.